

Emergency Response News



May 2002

IDEM responds to cleanup of 5,000 dead hogs following a fire at a farm in Switzerland County

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), collaborated with local and state agencies at a cleanup and disposal of 5,000 hogs, that perished in a fire at a confined feeding facility, near Patriot in Switzerland County.

On May 23, an IDEM on scene coordinator received a call from the Emergency Management Agency in Switzerland County about a potential release of manure, resulting from a fire in buildings at a hog farm. Staff notified the Indiana Board of Animal Health.

An inspector from IDEM's Agricultural and Solid Waste Compliance Section checked the site. He determined all liquids and manure waste were contained, thus state waterways had not been threatened. The fire had engulfed seven of the nine confined feeding buildings, in which approximately 5,000 piglets and hogs had perished.

The property owner hired a contractor to handle the cleanup. Manure and fire suppression waters had been contained to the concrete manure pits beneath the buildings. These wastes were pumped to holding tanks, and then land applied to fields at the site. Hog carcasses were removed and covered with soil, pending removal and transport for proper disposal. Solid waste materials, which included iron, metals, roofing, siding, electrical items and ashes from the demolished buildings were removed. These solid wastes and hog carcasses were hauled to an out of state landfill for proper disposal. The entire four acres will be seeded with winter wheat to provide a vegetative cover crop.

Other agencies assisting during the incident included the Posey Township Fire Department, Switzerland County Emergency Management Agency, Switzerland County Health Department, Indiana Board of Animal Health and Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

On August 28, IDEM staff inspected the site. He determined the cleanup had been completed to the agency's satisfaction to be protective of human health and the environment.



Incident Snapshot

IDEM action:

Investigated and oversaw the removal and cleanup of 5,000 hog carcasses and solid waste materials from a fire at a confined feeding operation

Location:

Farm situated 16 miles east of Vevay at 152 Concord Road just off State Road 156, near Patriot

Primary substances of concern:

Animal carcasses and manure

Environmental and health threats:

Potential contamination to surface waters of the state, including the nearby Ohio River from manure and liquids, and potential health concerns from carcasses

For further information about IDEM's response actions at this site, contact the staff at the following phone numbers or toll-free at (800) 451-6027:

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